

Newsletter – January 2019

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Welcome back to Term 2! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and you are all ready for the new term.

On behalf of all our staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year. We hope that 2019 is a happy year for you all.

Pauline Fleming, Acting Principal

Charity Christmas Carol Concert

What a lovely evening we had in the fabulous surroundings of the Island Hall on Tuesday 18 December. Once more, our pupils excelled themselves with their performances in music, drama and dance. We were so proud of every single one of the 160 pupils who took part. Well done to you all.

This special night always culminates our charity collections and we were delighted to hand over the following cheques to a wide range of charities:

Trocaire	£500
St Vincent de Paul, Lisburn	£250
Positive Futures, Lisburn	£250
Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary	£250
Friends of the Cancer centre	£250
Fr Charles, Malawai	£250

The ballot on the night was completely in aid of Charlie's chosen charities. Thank you so much to all of the audience as they raised an amazing £563 for the Children's Cancer Charity and for Angel Wishes. Thank you sincerely.



2019 Term Dates

- School opens for pupils on Tuesday 8 January 2019
- February Mid-Term Monday 18 February 2019 - Friday 22 February incl
- St. Patrick's Holiday: Monday 18 March 2019
- Easter Holidays: Thursday 18 April school closes at 12noon
- Pupils return after Easter on Monday 29 April 2019
- May Day Bank Holiday Monday 6 May: School closed
- May Day Bank Holiday Monday 27 May: School closed
- School closes for summer holidays Friday 28 June at 12noon



Transfer Meetings

This month I am looking forward to meeting with parents of pupils in Primary 7 to complete the transfer form for each child. Parents will have the chance to nominate a number of post-primary schools for their child.

Individual appointment letters will be sent out in January.



'Being the best that we can be'

Adverse Weather Policy

As winter is well and truly here, I thought it would be wise to share our adverse weather policy with you at this stage.

This policy sets out the school's action plan for adverse weather. In times of extreme weather, such as a heavy snowfall, the Principal and Senior Leadership Team will consider the checklist below to see if it is necessary to close the school

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team will begin the process by answering these questions related to the safety of pupils and staff:

1. Can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
2. Can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
3. In an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
4. Is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
5. Transport - can buses, meal deliveries, etc., reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
6. If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the Pupil Teacher Ratio acceptable? An acceptable PTR would be 1:30
7. Have local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling, been declared hazardous?

Having considered each question carefully, the Senior Leadership team will complete a Risk Assessment based on the answers. They will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 'No' to any of the 7 questions

If a decision is made to close

- Here in St. Joseph's P.S. we have a text message service to inform parents if the school is closed and again when the decision is taken to re-open
- All parent contacts will be sent a text message
- Radio Stations - BBC Radio Ulster will also be informed

We will use our twitter feed to communicate the closure



Art Exhibition,

Well done to all our young artists! You raised almost £200 to buy more paints, brushes and art materials for the school. Look after those masterpieces, they'll be worth a fortune some day!



Digital Admissions

Applications for admission to Primary 1 have now opened.

Applications are completed digitally this year. Parents will apply through a **Parent Portal**.

To help parents complete the online application form, we have organised 2 parent workshops on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 8 January 2019 4.30pm - 6.30pm**
- **Wednesday 9 January 2019 9.15am - 11am**

Come along and we will assist you completing the application form. Bring your child's birth certificate as well as proof of address and we will photocopy it here in school on the day.

The closing date for applications is midnight on Thursday 31 January

Catholic Schools Week

This year Catholic Schools Week will begin on Sunday 27 January 2019. The theme of the week is "Celebrating the work of our own Catholic Schools". Pupils will be exploring this theme throughout the week and we will have 2 parent assemblies that week as well.

Mrs Awada's Parent Assembly
Thursday 31 January 2019 at 9.30am

Mr Reid's Parent Assembly
Friday 1 February 2019 at 1.45pm



'Being the best that we can be'

Values of the Month

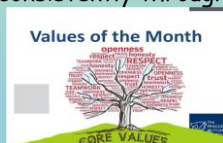
Our "Value of the Month" for January is DILIGENCE

*"Stick to your task till it sticks to you;
Beginners are many, but enders are few"*

Anon

January is a month when we all have to have diligence, especially if we have made some new year resolutions. Too often we can give up on things easily. It is important to model diligence with our pupils and children so that they can develop this healthy habit.

We will present awards to those pupils in each class who display the value consistently throughout the month.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Etain Lavery, winner of the Northern Ireland Forum for Anti-Bullying art competition for her fantastic poster on the theme of respect. She won a £25 shopping voucher. Well done Etain and happy shopping!



Microsoft Office for Free

Maybe Santa delivered some laptops or PCs this Christmas so this is just a reminder that you can download MS Office for FREE on up to 5 devices. I know this will come in really useful in the coming months and is a great saving for all of us.

Follow the link below:

<http://www.stjosephsschool.org/news-news/download-microsoft-office-for-free/>



Celebration of the Sacraments for Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 7

We are looking forward to celebrating the sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation with our Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 7 pupils.

Primary 3: First Confession

First Confession will take place on **Thursday 28 March at 10.45am** in St. Patrick's Chapel.

In preparation for receiving this sacrament parents are invited to come along to a **Commitment Service on Thursday 7 March at 9.30am**. This will take place in the school assembly hall and teachers will share important details about First Confession with you then.

Primary 4: First Communion

First Communion takes place on **Saturday 18 May at 10am in St. Patrick's Chapel**. Primary 4 will prepare for receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist by participating in a 'Breaking of Bread' Service on **Thursday 11 April at 9.30am** in the school assembly hall. Parents are invited along to this service and teachers will share important information about First Communion Day as well.

Primary 7: Confirmation

Confirmation for Primary 7 pupils will take place on **Thursday 21 March at 11am in St. Patrick's Chapel**.

In preparation for making their Confirmation parents are invited to our 'Service of Light' on **Tuesday 5 March at 7pm**. Important information about Confirmation will be shared with parents then.

Shared Education News

This month our shared education project with Harmony Hill Primary School really gathers momentum with Primary 4 and Primary 2 having contact days.

Primary 4 will be exploring World War 2 with their friends in P4 Harmony Hill. These pupils have already met last year so they will be back together for these days.

Primary 2 will have a "Fun with Friends Day" this month as well.

Other year groups will be meeting later in the school year.



‘Being the best that we can be’

Dates for your diary!

Mon 7 Jan	School Development Day School closed for pupils
Tues 8 Jan	School opens for pupils Digital Admissions Workshop for P1 September 2019 applications: 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Wed 9 Jan	Digital Admissions Workshop for P1 September 2019 applications: 9.15am - 11am P6 YMCA Trip to Lisburn Bowl 3pm - 4.30pm Mrs O'Hare Shared Education Development Day SUB:
Thurs 10 Jan	Awards Assembly Mrs O'Hare Shared Education Development day SUB:
Fri 11 Jan	Awards Assembly P7 swimming
Mon 14 Jan	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK P4 Mrs Connolly's class at Lisburn Library Digital Literacy Course: Mrs Awada
Tues 15 Jan	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK 2.15PM - 4PM Healthy Planning Session for P4 - P7
Wed 16 Jan	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre P4 Mrs Connolly @ 9.45am and P6 Mrs Gartland @ 10.45am 2.15PM - 4PM Healthy Planning Session for P1 - P3
Thurs 17 Jan	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK NI Assembly Conflict Workshops for P6 and P7 pupils
Fri 18 Jan	8 WEEKLY ASSESSMENT WEEK Mrs Noblett on Emergency First Aid at Work Course P7 at swimming P6 at badminton Mrs Fleming at CCEA
Mon 21 Jan	REFRESHER WEEK P4 Mrs Connolly's class at Lisburn Library 3pm Healthy Planning Sessions 6pm Board of Governor Meeting
Tues 22 Jan	REFRESHER WEEK P4 Shared Education Day 2.15pm - 4pm Healthy Planning Session for P4 - P7
Wed 23 Jan	REFRESHER WEEK Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre

	P4 Mrs Hanna @ 9.45am and P6 Mrs Gorman @ 10.45am
Thurs 24 Jan	REFRESHER WEEK P4 Shared Education Day Mrs McCambridge: Shared Education Course: Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Mrs Crilly at EA Mathematics Course
Fri 25 Jan	REFRESHER WEEK Mrs McCambridge: Shared Education Course: Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Planner 4 ends P7 at swimming P6 at badminton Mrs Crilly at EA Mathematics Course P6 Olympic Handball 9.30am - 12.30pm Mrs Fleming at CCEA
Mon 28 Jan	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK P4 Mrs Connolly's class at Lisburn Library Mrs Fleming Transfer Meetings with Primary 7 parents 3pm CEFR Assessment Completion
Tues 29 Jan	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK Primary 2 Shared Education day with Harmony Hill " Fun with Friends" Mrs Fleming Transfer Meetings with Primary 7 parents
Wed 30 Jan	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK Mrs Fleming Transfer Meetings with Primary 7 parents Pottery at Lisburn Arts Centre P4 Mrs Hanna @ 9.45am and P6 Mrs Gorman @ 10.45am
Thurs 31 Jan	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK Mrs Awada's Parent Assembly at 9.30am Mrs Fleming Transfer Meetings with Primary 7 parents CLOSING DATE FOR DIGITAL ADMISSIONS FOR PRIMARY 1 IN SEPTEMBER 2019
Fri 1 Feb	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK St. Brigid's Day Mr Reid's Parent Assembly at 1.45pm Mrs Fleming Transfer Meetings with Primary 7 parents

‘Being the best that we can be’